

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

App. No. : 10/709,889 Confirmation No. 3888  
Applicant : Manabu Hashikura, et al.  
Filed : June 3, 2004  
T.C./A.U. : 2818  
Examiner : Dao H. Nguyen  
Docket No. : 039.0043  
Customer No. : 29453

Honorable Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

### **REPLY Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111**

Sir:

In response to the Office action of September 20, 2006, Applicants respectfully submit the following reply, constituted by a listing of the claims, and remarks urging their patentability.

(This reply is being filed on March 20, 2007 along with a petition for a three-month extension of time, and is therefore timely filed.)

**A Listing of the Claims** begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 5 of this paper.